

TIMES-VIRGINIAN

IN THE HEART OF THE DARK TOBACCO BELT

APPOMATTOX, VIRGINIA

ESTABLISHED 1892

ALVIN H. ROBINSON, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER
Member Virginia Press AssociationPublished as second-class matter in the Post Office at Appomattox, Va., under Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.
Address all correspondence to The Times-Virginian, Appomattox, Va. Subscription Rate: \$1.50 a year; 50 cents for six months; less than six months 25 cents per copy. Payable in advance. Advertising rates on request.NATIONAL EDITORIAL
ASSOCIATION
1940
Office Member

PRESS

Editorial Comment

SUSPECT EVERYONE

TRIED IT!

This newspaper usually refrains from taking sides in the quarrels between labor unions and employers, limiting our discussion to the merits of arbitration and the setting up of boards or courts with authority to give each side a fair hearing, and then make a decision which both sides must accept. We have pointed out that even a ball game must have its umpire, and that the umpire is worthless without some authority.

This paper does, however, take the view that the demand of John Lewis for a reformed, non-administrative health and welfare fund is basically wrong. We know nothing of the other demands of Mr. Lewis upon the mine operators, but we do not believe that it is economically sound to permit a union to levy a tax upon each unit of production, and administer the income from such tax as it pleases. This would amount to a tax, and labor unions are not vested by our constitution with power to tax.

It is not our wish to oppose a health and welfare fund for the miners. Everyone should have a health and welfare fund, and a health and welfare fund for the miners should be set up.

If we were to accept the principle that the public should pay a premium on products and commodities to take care of welfare and health requirements of workers, where would it lead us?

We'd be entitled to an extra charge on each copy of this paper to pay our insurance policy.

The price of a bottle of milk would include an extra penny to provide an old-dick-hole for the pitcher.

When you went to a ball game, before each pitch to pay, as we said, the umpire would call it a strike or ball, out of safe until the collection plate had been passed to pay his hospital insurance premium.

The tobacco farmer would be entitled to make the cigarette manufacturers add an extra penny to each package, to give the farmer a welfare fund of millions and millions of dollars a year. And nobody but the farmer hands to have a say when it comes to the welfare fund. They could have a Saturday night barn dance with free drinks if they wanted it, or they could have a "welfare" fund to do so.

You couldn't get anything done in America, until you had shipped your contribution towards the personal wants of the performer, before a regular compensation.

It simply would lead to ruin. A worker is entitled to a decent job and a decent wage; but it is strictly up to HIM to pay up his own insurance policy, church dues and potential welfare needs.

What would John L. Lewis say to a proposal from the operators to set up a tax of ten per cent on all UNION DUES Mr. Lewis collects, to set up a home for retired coal mine owners?

His principle of having other people chip in and set you up for the abundant life, is not likely to be gained all at once. We suspect that Mr. Lewis would negotiate on the size of the tax, and get the principle established. He could afford to settle for a tax of two or three cents a ton, jointly administered by the operators and the union, if he could get his principle accepted; namely, that nobody must renege workers. Were this principle accepted, now then in future contracts the size of the tax and its administration would be up to whatever the traffic would bear.

Truman says aid to the starving people of the world is a moral responsibility of U. S. Pynes proposes a four-power pact to guarantee German disarmament for 20 years. Traffic toll in U. S. is now near the brevier peak.

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